

Fin

Minutes 11/30/10 Harvard's Economic Development (EDC) Committee meeting

Present: Al Combs, Jim Higgins, Bill Johnson (BOS), Rich Maiore, Bruce Stamski

Absent: Elaine Lazarus (illness), Planning Board liason

The meeting commenced at 7:10 PM in the old library.

Rich Maiore was unanimously elected Chairperson. Jim Higgins offered to be the temporary Scribe, reserving for Elaine Lazarus the right of first refusal.

It was agreed that the minutes of the meetings should reflect substantive discussions, motions and action items. This first meeting was primarily focused on Committee processes and efforts to be undertaken year 1.

Bill Johnson attended the meeting as the liaison from the Board of Selectman. He spent some time reviewing the charge to the Committee, the efforts of the EDAT, and his recommendations for short-term projects in support of the Committee's goals. The overall objective is to exert aggressive and robust efforts to enable the growth of the Commercial District in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Town residents.

The five projects discussed were:

- 1) Pursuing the ETA designation for Harvard;
- 2) Working to connect existing Harvard businesses to emphasize the Town's sincere interest in their success;
- 3) Developing communication vehicles for residents, particularly those in areas abutting the commercial zone, in order to be proactive and demonstrate transparency ;
- 4) Working with landowners, developers and prospective businesses to communicate Harvard's avowed supportive posture to attract the right services/businesses.
- 5) Investigate the infrastructure issues to make recommendations to facilitate orderly and attractive growth

It was recommended that each of these and other projects that will be defined be driven by a pair of EDC members, while soliciting and accepting support from advisors and other Town residents.

[**ACTION:** At the next meeting, members will identify their preferred alignment, possibly with a mini-action plan]

It was suggested that a fixed day in each month be reserved for the EDC meetings, and the 2nd Tuesday of each month was recommended. It was also suggested and agreed that there be a target of 90 minutes for the meetings.

Rich Maiore indicated that he would work with the Town Administrator to obtain some office space for meeting contacts and for storage of materials.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Higgins, Acting Recording Secretary